

COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1

Members: Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2
Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4
Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, District No. 5
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr. District No. 7
Mr. Henry L. Richardson, District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

The COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, met on Monday, March 12, 2001, in the Assembly Room of the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Milton Farley, Councilmember District No. 1, Chairman; Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, Councilmember District No 2; Mr. William E. Crosby, Councilmember District No. 3; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Councilmember District No. 4; Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, Councilmember District No. 5; Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Councilmember District No. 6; Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Councilmember District No. 7; Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., Councilmember District No. 8; Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor ex officio; and Mr. D. Mark Stokes, County Attorney.

The requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been complied with by posting the time, date, place and copy of Agenda of this Committee meeting of Berkeley County Council at the entrance to the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and a copy of such notice was mailed to all Councilmembers and the News media.

Chairman Farley called the meeting to order and Supervisor Rozier suggested they go into Executive Session.

Councilmember Spooner moved to go into Executive Session to discuss matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the county; or the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the County in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the County of a claim; seconded by Councilmember Vaughn; and passed by voice vote of the Committee.

The Committee went into Executive Session at 6:03 p.m. and returned at 6:43 p.m.

Mr. Stokes stated the Committee went into Executive Session to discuss matters as stated in the motion; no formal action was taken.

Chairman Farley stated first on the agenda was Wayne DeWitt, Berkeley County Sheriff, Re: Position upgrades and additional personnel funds for department.

Major Butch Henerey stated that in the absence of Sheriff DeWitt, who is out of town, he would address Council. He stated that for the last several months the Sheriff's Office has been going through an accreditation process. They hope to be completed within the next 90 – 120 days. That process means that they would have met established professional standards, increased their capabilities, able to provide better management, which leads to greater effectiveness and efficiency when serving the public. He stated they are requesting to reorganize positions within the Sheriff's Department to meet the certain accreditation standards and would mean very little from a financial standpoint. The positions involved would cost approximately \$63 in this year's budget and approximately \$265 in next year's budget, which were computed by Human Resources.

Major Henerey stated the Sheriff's Department has made great strides in the last six and a half years under Sheriff DeWitt and they realize they could not have done it without the support of Berkeley County Council and Supervisor Rozier. He stated they are requesting Council's support in this effort to become accredited. Within the last six years, they have gone from a small Sheriff's Department to a very fine Law Enforcement Agency.

Supervisor Rozier stated no additional funds are needed for this year's budget. It would be a \$63 increase in cost but the money is in the budget; and it would be a \$265 increase next year. He stated the Sheriff had worked closely with Human Resources and the Supervisor's Office, which was an excellent exercise. They were concerned how much money it was going to take for the Sheriff's Department to meet the accreditation requirements. However, when they looked at it, they had to change some ranks, but financially, it came out very well.

Councilmember Crosby moved to approve the position upgrades and transfer of personnel funds for the Sheriff's Department; seconded by Councilmember Mims.

Councilmember Vaughn asked what would happen if they are not accredited? Major Henerey stated nothing happens but this would be a big help to liability. Supervisor Rozier stated that if we were not accredited, liability cases could be filed; there would be lawsuits for arrest without accreditation, etc; so, being accredited saves a lot of money.

Upon call for the vote, the motion passed by voice vote of the Committee.

Next was Mary P. Brown, Berkeley County Clerk of Court, Re: Transfer of funds within Department.

Ms. Brown stated the Committee has in their packet a copy of the letter requesting transfer of funds. She stated she is giving up a laser printer but they have a scanner and because

of the number of pleadings they need another scanner. This is part of the same system that Administrative Services has in their office. It would need to be a Sole Source bid, which is for a Canon 32040 PPM Duplex Maximum 8.5 X 14. Ms. Brown stated this comes under the Administrative Services scanning system that is set up for the County. There is a backlog because of the number of pleadings in the file and getting the cases set up.

Councilmember Vaughn moved for approval; seconded by Councilmember Crosby; and passed by voice vote of the Committee.

Chairman Farley stated next on the agenda was Wes Blanchard, EMS Director, Re: Additional funds for department.

Mr. Blanchard stated, based on the current General Ledger they have some shortfalls as indicated in the letter he submitted to the Committee. Part of this is because of the much higher prices in diesel and gasoline and additional increase of prices in their medical supplies. He stated they are almost to the 12 percent increase in EMS runs compared to last year. The Special Convalescent truck that he thought he might need additional money for this year appears that they are going to make it without asking for any funds for that truck. Since September they have transported about 200 convalescent patients to doctor or hospital visits. So, they are making some difference in the quality of care that's being delivered in the rural areas.

Councilmember Crosby asked was the total \$23,750? Mr. Blanchard stated yes.

Supervisor Rozier stated because of the 12 percent additional runs this year, this would bring in \$70,000 to \$80,000 more in revenue than projected. When more services are provided through EMS it takes more dollars.

Councilmember Crosby moved for approval; seconded by Councilmember Spooner.

Councilmember Mims asked are most of the ambulances diesel? Mr. Blanchard stated that all of the ambulances are diesel. Supervisor Rozier stated they were all gasoline in 1991. Councilmember Vaughn asked which costs more? Supervisor Rozier stated diesel ambulances last three times as long. Mr. Blanchard stated a diesel truck could run about 200,000 miles; a gas truck is about gone at 80,000 miles.

Upon call for the vote, the motion passed by voice vote of the Committee.

Supervisor Rozier stated Item D, Berkeley County Fire Chief's Association, Re: Recommendations for Berkeley County Fire Tax Advisory Board needs to be held.

Chairman Farley stated the last item was Review prior to Second Reading of Bill No. 01-2, an Ordinance to provide a civil penalty for the unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

Councilmember Crosby moved for approval; seconded by Councilmember Spooner; and passed by voice vote of the Committee.

Councilmember Spooner moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilmember Crosby; and passed by voice vote of the Committee.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

**COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)**

Chairman: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1

Members: Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2
Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4
Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, District No. 5
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr. District No. 7
Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

There will be a Meeting of the COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, on Monday March 12, 2001, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- A. Wayne Dewitt, Berkeley County Sheriff, Re: Position upgrades and additional personnel funds for department.
- B. Mary P. Brown, Berkeley County Clerk of Court, Re: Transfer of funds within Department.
- C. Wes Blanchard, EMS Director, Re: Additional funds for department.
- D. Berkeley County Fire Chief's Association, Re: Recommendations for Berkeley County Fire Tax Advisory Board.
- E. Review prior to Second Reading of Bill No. 01-2, An Ordinance to provide a civil penalty for the unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia.

March 7, 2001
S/Barbara B. Austin
Clerk of County Council